

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FOR DISABLED VETERANS

PURPOSE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION: The vocational rehabilitation program is designed to provide all services and assistance necessary to enable service-disabled veterans to achieve maximum independence in daily living and, to the maximum extent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment.

BASIC ENTITLEMENT: You are entitled to vocational rehabilitation if you meet three conditions;

1. You were discharged from the service under other than dishonorable conditions:
2. You have a service-connected disability or disabilities which VA has rated at least 20 percent disabling, which arose on or after September 16, 1940, and for which you are receiving, or could elect to receive, VA compensation; *and
3. VA determines you need rehabilitation services and assistance to overcome an employment handicap or to improve your capacity for independent living in your family and community.

* **NOTE:** If you first applied for vocational rehabilitation and VA received your application before November 1, 1990, you may be entitled with less than 20 percent compensable disability rating.

PERIODS OF ELIGIBILITY: In general, the basic period of eligibility is 12 years following the date of notification of entitlement to VA compensation. Eligibility for vocational rehabilitation may be extended beyond the basic period under certain conditions.

HOW TO APPLY: To apply, you should submit this completed application to the nearest VA office.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE: You may obtain additional information and assistance may be obtained from any VA office or United States Veterans Assistance Center (USVAC). Local representatives of veterans' organizations and the American Red Cross also have information and forms available.

EVALUATION AND COUNSELING: A comprehensive evaluation to determine your need for rehabilitation services and assistance. Following VA's determination that you are entitled to these services and assistance, VA will provide counseling to assist you to develop a rehabilitation plan designed to reach your goals. Counseling remains available throughout the program to assist you with problems which may arise. We will arrange evaluation and counseling appointments at convenient times for you. We will pay your travel expenses to and from these evaluation and counseling appointments.

REHABILITATION SERVICES: If VA finds you entitled, VA may authorize up to 48 months or more of rehabilitation services and assistance. You may receive necessary education and training in colleges and universities, vocational schools, apprentice and other on-job training establishments, as well as special rehabilitation facilities. VA will provide counseling, medical care and treatment, employment assistance to get and hold a job, and other needed services. If a vocational goal is not currently feasible for you, VA may provide services and assistance needed to improve your capacity for independent living.

SUPPORT: VA may pay for tuition, fees, supplies, tools, or other supplies needed for your rehabilitation program. You will also receive a subsistence allowance each month based on your type of program, your rate of attendance, and the number of your dependents. You will receive this allowance in addition to any compensation or other disability benefits to which you are entitled. There are certain conditions under which VA must limit the amount of subsistence allowance which may be paid. These conditions will be explained to you during your initial counseling sessions.

PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION: VA may not pay this benefit unless VA receives a completed application form (38 U.S.C. 210(c)(1)). The information this form requests is necessary to determine your entitlement to the benefit for which you are applying. The information you furnish will not be used for any other purpose and will not be released outside VA unless authorized by you in writing (Item 19) or unless disclosure is authorized under the Privacy Act, including the routine uses identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22, Compensation, Pension, Education, and Rehabilitation Records - VA, published in the Federal Register. Generally, disclosure under the authority of a routine use will be made to develop your claim for vocational rehabilitation benefits under title 38, U.S.C. Information you submit is subject to verification through computer matching programs with other agencies. VA may use computer matching to obtain employment status information. If you incur a debt to VA, VA may also use computer matching to help collect the debt.

RESPONDENT BURDEN: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1/4 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the VA Clearance Officer (723), 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20420; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (2900-0009), Washington, DC 20503. Do NOT send requests for benefits to these addresses.